

Message Text

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ACTION OES-09

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SUBJECT: VISIT OF ISPO REPS RE IAEA SAFEGUARDS SUPPORT

1. ISPO (BROOKHAVEN NATIONAL LABORATORY'S INTERNATIONAL SAFEGUARDS PROJECT OFFICE) REPS GREEN AND WALIGURA SPENT WEEK AUGUST 14-18 IN FRUITFUL MEETINGS WITH IAEA SAFE-GUARDS STAFF INCLUDING MEMBERS OF OPERATIONS DIVISIONS A AND B, AND DIVISIONS OF SAFEGUARDS INFORMATION TREATMENT AND DEVELOPMENT AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT.

2. A. VON BAECKMANN, DIRECTOR OF LATTER DIVISION AND ACTING IAEA DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR SAFEGUARDS, IN WIND-UP SESSION FRIDAY, AUGUST 18, SAID MEETINGS HAD BEEN VERY VALUABLE TO AGENCY. HE AGAIN EXPRESSED AGENCY'S DEEP GRATITUDE TO USG FOR THE SUPPORT PROGRAM.

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3. TWO SPECIFIC POINTS OF PARTICULAR INTEREST WERE RAISED BY VON BAECKMANN DURING AUGUST 18 MEETING: (A) REDUCTION IN VALUE OF THE DOLLAR AND CUTS IMPOSED DURING BOARD OF GOVERNORS' REVIEW OF IAEA BUDGET HAVE REDUCED AGENCY'S SAFEGUARDS PROGRAM FUNDS, INCLUDING PORTION UNDER WHICH NUCLEAR MATERIALS MEASUREMENT EQUIPMENT FOR USE BY

INSPECTORS IN THE FIELD WAS TO BE PURCHASED. AS A SPECIFIC EXAMPLE, VON BAECKMANN CITED THE PLANNED PURCHASE OF TWO GERMANIUM DETECTORS (FOR ABOUT \$32,000) WHICH WAS RECENTLY TURNED DOWN BECAUSE OF THE BUDGET CUTBACK. THESE ITEMS HAD BEEN FAIRLY HIGH ON THE DEPARTMENT'S PRIORITY LIST. HE WONDERED WHAT THE CURRENT US VIEW WAS ON THE POSSIBILITY OF AN ISPO TASK COVERING THE PURCHASE OF SUCH EQUIPMENT. MISOFF NOTED THERE HAD BEEN CONCERNS EXPRESSED IN THE PAST ABOUT SUCH DIRECT SUPPORT TO SAFEGUARDS OPERATIONS, BUT THAT WE WOULD CHECK INTO IT. (B) VON BAECKMANN SAID THAT THE AGENCY WAS RECEIVING VERY LITTLE INFORMATION ABOUT STATUS AND SUBSTANCE OF SEVERAL TASKS UNDER PAR C (SYSTEMS STUDIES) AND THEREFORE WAS NOT ABLE TO GIVE US FEEDBACK TO ASSURE THAT THE STUDIES ARE "ON TARGET" IN TERMS OF AGENCY'S CURRENT NEEDS AND INTERESTS. HE RECOGNIZED THE USG DESIRE TO HAVE THE DRAFT STUDIES REVIEWED IN WASHINGTON BUT WAS CONCERNED THAT CARE SHOULD BE TAKEN TO ASSURE THAT THAT PROCESS DID NOT INTRODUCE SERIOUS COMMUNICATION GAPS AND TIME DELAYS. GREEN AND WALIGURA HAVE ADDITIONAL DETAILS ON THESE QUESTIONS.

4. ISPO REPS HAD USEFUL DISCUSSIONS WITH INSPECTORS AND DIRECTORS OF THE TWO OPERATIONS DIVISIONS. ALTHOUGH VON BAECKMANN AND RUNDQUIST (HEAD, SECTION FOR DEVELOPMENT OF INSTRUMENTS METHODS AND TECHNIQUES) ARE CLEARLY AWARE OF THE OBJECTIVE OF GETTING USEFUL INSTRUMENTS AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TECHNIQUES INTO PRACTICAL APPLICATION BY INSPECTORS IN THE FIELD, SOME INDIVIDUAL INSPECTORS HAVE EXPRESSED THE FEELING THAT THERE WAS TOO LITTLE INSPECTOR INVOLVEMENT IN THE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM AND THAT THEIR CONCERNS WERE NOT BEING HEARD. AS A RESULT OF THE ISPO REPS' VISIT, HOWEVER, WE EXPECT THE OPERATIONS DIVISIONS WILL NOW HAVE A MORE ORGANIZED AND SUBSTANTIVE INPUT TO THE PROGRAM; E.G., OPERATIONS DIVISIONS HAVE NOW IDENTIFIED INSPECTORS TO FOLLOW ALL BUT ONE OF THE TASTEX TASKS. THE DETAILED QUESTIONS DEVELOPED BY ISPO AND GIVEN TO THE IAEA REGARDING IAEA PLANS FOR UTILIZATION OF THE INDIVIDUAL TASK RESULTS WILL BE ESPECIALLY HELPFUL IN FOCUSING IAEA ATTENTION ON ACHIEVING IN-THE-FIELD UTILIZATION OF THE TASK PRODUCTS.

5. A MEETING WAS ALSO HELD WITH A NUMBER OF IAEA STAFF MEMBERS ON TASTEX PROGRAM. THORNE (HEAD, FAR EAST SECTION) EXPRESSED HIS PERSONAL DESIRE FOR HIGHEST PRIORITY TO BE PLACED ON HARDWARE WHICH CAN BE INSTALLED AND USED BY IAEA INSPECTORS AT EARLIEST POSSIBLE DATE. THE NEED FOR TAMPER PROOFING/INDICATING AND FOR MEANS OF INDEPENDENT VERIFICATION OF READINGS WAS EMPHASIZED BY THE

AGENCY. NEED TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN INTERESTS AND REQUIREMENTS OF IAEA AND OF PLANT OPERATOR DURING THE FEASIBILITY STUDIES PLANNED AS PART OF SEVERAL TASKS WAS ALSO NOTED. THESE DISCUSSIONS AND THE MEETINGS IN US PLANNED FOR WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 4 WILL HELP CONSIDERABLY TO ALLEVIATE IAEA CONCERNS REPORTED EARLIER ABOUT HAVING SUFFICIENT INPUT TO TASTEX PROGRAM. KIRK

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